

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A support pad for an equine foot, said support pad comprising:

a bi-laterally symmetrical oval pad having a toe end, a heel end opposite the toe end, a substantially planar hoof surface, a substantially planar opposite shoe surface and defining a central opening through said hoof and shoe surfaces; and

a generally triangular frog support formed as one piece with the wedge pad and having a generally planar frog support face, an opposite ground contact face, a rounded tip of the frog support projecting toward said toe end from the heel end of the pad such that said tip is positioned in said central opening and centered on a line drawn from said toe end to said heel end to separate said support pad into equal lateral portions,

wherein said tip is surrounded by said central opening toward said toe end and laterally relative to said line.

2. (original) The support pad of claim 1, wherein said oval pad is a wedge pad tapering from a first thickness at the heel end to a second thickness at the toe end, said second thickness being less than said first thickness such that said hoof surface and shoe surface have an angular orientation relative to each other.

3. (currently amended) The support pad of claim 1, wherein said frog support face extends from said tip to the heel end of said support pad and said ~~frog~~ ground contact face extends from said tip toward said heel end, said ground contact face terminating at least one inch from said heel end such that said shoe surface is continuous around the entire periphery of said support pad.

4. (original) The support pad of claim 2, wherein said frog support face diverges from said hoof surface such that the frog support ~~surface~~ face at said tip is elevated relative to laterally adjacent portions of said hoof surface.

5. (currently amended) The support pad of claim 4, wherein said frog support surface face at said tip is elevated relative to laterally adjacent portions of said hoof surface by a distance of approximately .25 inches.

6. (original) The support pad of claim 4, wherein said ground contact face has an angular orientation relative to said frog support face such that said frog support is thickest at said tip and tapers toward the heel end of said support pad.

7. (original) The support pad of claim 1, wherein said ground contact face at said tip is approximately five sixteenths of an inch below laterally adjacent portions of said shoe surface.

8. (currently amended) A combination of a horseshoe and support pad, said support pad comprising:

a bilaterally symmetrical oval pad having a toe end, a heel end opposite the toe end, a substantially planar hoof surface, a substantially planar opposite shoe surface surrounding the entire periphery of said pad, said pad defining a central opening through said hoof and shoe surfaces;

a generally-triangular-frog-support-formed-as-one-piece-with-the-wedge-pad-and having a generally planar frog support face, an opposite ground contact face, a rounded tip of the frog support projecting toward said toe end from the heel end of the wedge pad such that said tip is positioned in said central opening and centered on a line drawn from said toe end to said heel end to separate said support pad into equal symmetrical lateral portions; and

a horseshoe mountable to said shoe surface, said horseshoe having a traction face and a mounting face,

wherein said tip is surrounded by said central opening toward said toe end and laterally relative to said line.

9. (currently amended) The combination of claim ~~11~~ 8, wherein said horseshoe has a configuration selected from the group consisting of egg bar, straight bar, or open shoe.

10. (currently amended) The combination of claim ~~11~~ 8, wherein said ground contact surface projects to the ground surface of said traction surface when said horseshoe is mounted to said shoe surface.

11. (currently amended) The combination of claim ~~11~~ 8, wherein said frog ground contact face has an angular orientation relative to said frog support face such that said frog support is thickest at said tip and tapers toward the heel end of said support pad.

12. (currently amended) The combination of claim ~~11~~ 8, wherein said oval pad is a wedge pad tapering from a first thickness at the heel end to a second thickness at the toe end, said second thickness being less than said first thickness such that said hoof surface and shoe surface have an angular orientation relative to each other.

13. (currently amended) The combination of claim ~~11~~ 8, wherein said frog support face diverges from said hoof surface such that the frog support surface at said tip is elevated relative to laterally adjacent portions of said hoof surface.

14. The combination of claim 13, wherein said frog support surface at said tip is elevated relative to laterally adjacent portions of said hoof surface by a distance of approximately .25 inches.